

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/780,784

Examiner

Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.

Applicant(s)

CAREY ET AL.

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1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment after final rejection filed 10 August 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5,7,9,13-15,20,22-24,28,29,35 and 36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 20070810
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S COMMENTS & STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The Information Disclosure Statement filed 10 August 2007 contains a duplicate citation of previously cited DE 9013620. In order to avoid duplicate publication of the citation in any future patent publication, the citation has been lined through.

Election/Restrictions

2. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.141 and as noted in the restriction of 12 January 2007, since the generic claims 1 and 20 are allowable, non-elected dependent species claims 9 and 29, respectively, are rejoined and fully considered on the merits.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13-15, 20, 22-24, 28-29 & 35-36 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record, DE 20302572 to HANSEN, U.S. Patent No. 7,082,783 to UIHLEIN & U.S. Patent No. 4,993,786 to DE GIULIO, fail to teach each and every limitation of the instant invention. Specifically, HANSEN discloses a laundry appliance with shelf support. UIHLEIN discloses a support with slidable shelf/drawer combination. DE GIULIO discloses a slidable shelf with recessed cover. However, the cited references fail to teach or reasonably suggest the claimed invention of a laundry appliance with slidable drawer and shelf wherein the shelf is horizontally slidable above the drawer to

open/close the drawer and provide support below the appliance for a laundry basket (claim 1) or a support for a laundry appliance wherein the support includes said drawer/shelf arrangement having a recessed compartment in the shelf with an openable cover (claims 20 & 35). For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 13-15, 20, 22-24, 28-29 & 35-36 are believed to recite patentable subject matter.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-1305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30, except alternate Fridays.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael E. Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1746

JLP